

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 1.

Please cancel claims 2 and 3.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended): A composition of matter comprising:  
a bibulous positively charged substrate; and at least one  
water soluble tetrazolium salt on at least one surface of said positively charged substrate.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled):

4. (Original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said water soluble tetrazolium salt is part of an analyte oxidizing signal producing system.
5. (Original): The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte oxidase.
6. (Original): The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte dehydrogenase.
7. (Original): The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system further comprises an electron transfer agent.
8. (Original): The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system further comprises an enzyme cofactor.
9. (Original): The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system is present as a reagent composition.